

NATION'S EDITORS
APPROVE ANSWERAll Agree President Has Put
Teuton Nations in Great
Diplomatic Dilemma.WILL EXPOSE TRICKERY
Leaves Berlin No Chance to
Say We Refused to Accept
Peace Offer.Below will be found the editorial
comment made on this morning's issues of
some of the chief papers of the country
on President Wilson's reply to the German
Chancellor.Chicago Tribune—The President has
not the least approach of the German
Chancellor's reply to his masterly skill.
Maximilian's request was ambiguous
and we believe it was intended to be
a trap for the President. The President
has now given him the opportunity
to prove his sincerity by making the
German offer clear. If it was not
sincere the President has prevented
Maximilian from turning to the Ger-
man people and saying:

"Berlin's Concession Is Nothing."

Springfield Republican—If the im-
pression was entertained by the Ger-
man Government that President Wilson,
because of his personal attitude toward
the Teuton nations, would be easily
led into a trap, the President's reply
has shown that the impression was
entirely unfounded.The President's reply to the Ger-
man Chancellor is a masterpiece of
diplomacy. It is a masterpiece of
diplomacy because it leaves the Ger-
man Government in a dilemma. It is
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leaves the German Government no chance
to say that they refused to accept the
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in Alsace to GodBERNE, Oct. 8.—The German
Emperor, addressing the Ger-
man soldiers at Rastatt, Alsace,
late in September said:Neither the French nor the
Americans will break through
our front in Alsace-Lorraine.
We shall defend with the last
drop of our blood these pro-
vinces which belong to us and
which the Almighty has en-
trusted to us to administer as
his fief. We shall keep them
for the benefit of their in-
habitants and the glory of
God.Our faithful allies are with
us in this. The last drop of
blood of every Austrian and
Hungarian soldier, the last
drop of blood of every Ger-
man soldier, the last drop of
blood of every Turkish soldier
will be shed before our
enemies wrest from us land
which belongs to Germany.German Government to come into court
and show why its application should
not be dismissed on the ground of fraud.
The burden of proof is thus put wholly
upon the Imperial Government, but it is
easy to translate the President's note
into a demand for a peace conference.That decision in substance is that the
United States will not participate in any
peace discussion in which the terms laid
down by the President are not the basis
for peace negotiations. They
must be accepted, and nothing left to
negotiation but the practical details of
their application.The object of this German
peace offensive was to convince the Ger-
man people that their Government is
whollyhearted for peace, even on Presi-
dent Wilson's own terms, and that the
blood of the German people is being
shed for the sake of the German people.
All this was undertaken
preparatory to stealing German morale
from the inevitable German retreat, and
for the defensive warfare which the Im-
perial Government must henceforth
wage. The President has simply shifted
the issue back to Germany, and left the
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TO LAST BUILDINGAncient French City Comple-
ly Ruined, Wine Cellars Alone
Escaping Damage.25,000,000 QUARTS SAVED
Cathedral Smashed Beyond Re-
pair—Germans' Final Salvo
Was Mustard Gas Shells.By RAYMOND G. CARROLL.
Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun and the
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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE,
Oct. 8.—American infantry units operat-
ing near the French city of Rheims
have been ordered to capture the city.
They were on the crown of a hill and
were operating severely against the ad-
vancing French. The Americans charged
the hill, scattering the enemy and cap-
turing the guns. They then continued
northward with the French for eleven
kilometers. For this operation the
Americans won the praise of Gen. Gour-
mand.Ammunition trucks which brought up
shells worked forty-eight hours contin-
uously, as did the American artillery and
infantry. The immediate effect of the
Franco-American drive, in which the
French were the main force, was the
complete withdrawal of the Germans
from the crushing ring of encirclements
around Rheims. Yesterday I found the
encirclements from which Rheims, im-
portant center of the champagne in-
dustry, also for the manufacture of tex-
tiles, has been viciously shelled since the
beginning of the war. Afterward I
went into the devastated city, and in
company of French and American offi-
cers visited with sorrow the wreck left
by the German shells fired inside the
cathedral of Notre Dame, one of the
most noble and most magnificent of
early Gothic architecture.The cathedral, which required more
than 200 years in the building, has been
reduced to ruin in four years of more
or less constant bombardment. The walls
are standing, but daylight shows through
them in many places. Great holes in the
roof are showing, and the interior is un-
supported masonry crumbles and falls.There are a few more stones left on the
arches of the ceiling, another cloud of
dust and smoke rose out of the skeleton
structure and German effort at the de-
struction of the ancient capital of the
Remi was ended.There is little more the Germans could
have done, for Rheims to-day is in utter
ruin, as complete a symbol as even the
Germans would wish to leave behind
them of the ruthlessness of war as they
have waged it. Only the buildings in
the immediate vicinity of the cathedral
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Worthy Successors to U. S.
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WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE,
Oct. 8.—On the great American charge
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more detailed account of it will not be
amiss.On their whole front of 6,000 yards
the men from the United States broke
through the defenses of the Hindenburg
line, including the canal, in a way that
would have done credit to more ex-
perienced soldiers. For the inexperi-
enced American troops it really was an
extraordinary exploit.The American troops, Southerners,
Carolinians, Tennesseans and New
Yorkers alike, went straight for the Ger-
man defenses, which were of the most
formidable kind, and swept on to all of
their objectives. The impetuosity of
their advance made it possible for the
advance of the Ninth British Corps.It was the Southerners who took
Belloucourt and Nauray, while the New
York men, reaching in the face of an
intense machine gun fire, swept toward
Gouy and Mont St. Martin. That some
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an American platoon went into battle
fighting as a unit with the Australians.
Before going into action the Australian
General told his men they were going
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From that day the cordial understand-
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they are, they are equally effective, and
they came quickly to respect and love each
other.The Americans watched their new
comrades critically, and when the fight
was over they spoke of the Americans
with frank astonishment and of the
earnestness and fierceness of the Ameri-
cans in the advance as exceeding any-
thing they had ever witnessed. On the
occasion a number of the Americans
were disappointed when the number of
their troops were reduced and they were
left out. These managed to borrow tunics
from some of the Australians, and thus
disguised sneaked into the fight.It is not known to what extent this
brotherhood will last, but certainly the
Australians that day showed greater
strength than their roll call warranted.
From that day the cordial understand-
ing between the two forces has been
complete.THE PRESIDENT'S
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